GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

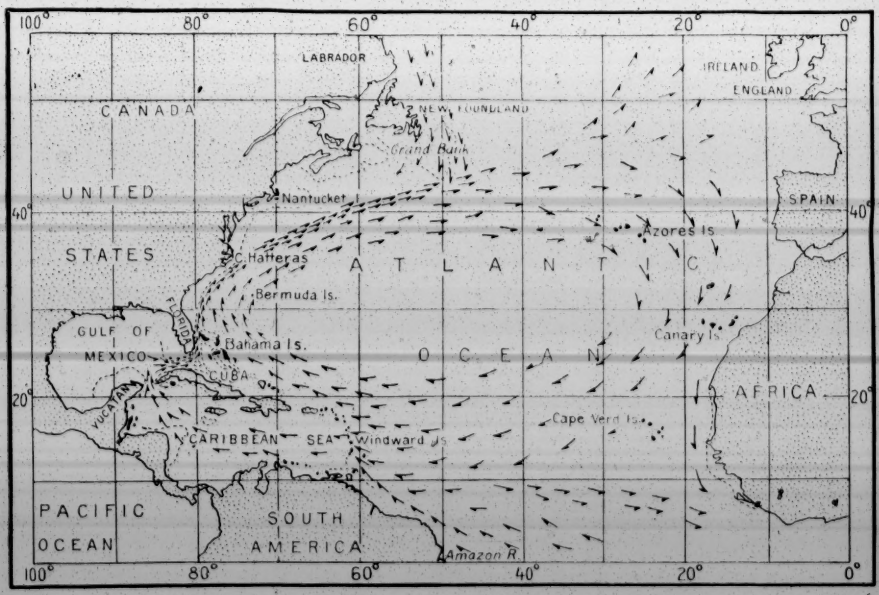
for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

CONTENTS FOR WEEK ENDING JANUARY 19, 1920

1. Dalmatia: Where Racial Rivalry Is An Old Story.
2. World's Mightiest River Flows Through Ocean. (See map below.)
3. Big Fish in Ocean Stream.
4. The Real Gretna Green.
5. Esthonians: Who Made Peace With the Bolsheviki.
6. Who Are the Kurds?



OUTLINE MAP SHOWING GENERAL DIRECTION OF THE GULF STREAM AND OTHER CURRENTS IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Bulletins are furnished by The National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.

Teachers may apply individually for them; principals may apply for copies for teachers (not for individual pupils at present) and for their school libraries. Superintendents desiring copies for their entire teaching staff should correspond with the Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C., as to methods of sending in quantities.

Tear off along this line if desired.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

Dalmatia: Where Racial Rivalry Is An Old Story

SMALL wonder that Dalmatia should form one of the most sharply contested regions in the rival Italian and Jugoslav claims, for this strip of seacoast land, for eight centuries, has been swept by continuous racial tempests.

With an area about equal to Connecticut, Dalmatia is so elongated that nowhere is it more than thirty-five miles wide, and it tapers down to but a mile at Cattaro.

With a climate of extreme temperatures, hot and dry when the sirocco (hot southeast wind) sweeps over it, cold and wet when the dread bora, or "wind of the dead," comes from the sea, and terrorizes mariners along its shores, peasants find life a struggle. The land is not fertile, much of it is not arable at all, and a common rural picture is that of men and women cultivating grapes and figs and olives on terraces on the sides of the frequent hills.

They Find Their Fun at Weddings and Funerals

Perhaps that is why these women, so far as their work is concerned, are sturdy and docile, and willingly lend themselves as burden-bearers and tillers. They are primitive enough to find relaxation in festivals, weddings, funerals, and fetes, and at such times they form the picturesque groups Dalmatian travellers tell about, with bright colored costumes, headpieces decorated with coins, and dresses bedecked with jewels.

The Croats and Serbians constitute the Slavic element in Dalmatia. They speak the same language but employ two alphabets. The Serbs use the Russian and the Croats the Latin letters and alphabet.

In the cities the Latin influence is more prevalent. The reason therefor is the story of Dalmatia.

In the middle ages the Dalmatians were a people without the consciousness of a country. During the Slav influx into Illyria the invaders encountered little opposition, even in Dalmatia, except in the seaport towns. The Latin element in the cities resisted the migration and thus engendered the strife for supremacy which persists to this day.

Much of the early rivalry was economic. Tradesmen and farmers naturally wished to exchange their goods with the Hungarians. The maratime cities preferred to do business with Venice, which controlled the Adriatic.

Public Schools Came Late

Though Dalmatia did not develop the strong national feeling of her Balkan neighbors, because of her mixed population, she made rapid strides in science and literature. But the story of her culture is one of personal achievement rather than public advancement. Thus it came about that this early seat of Balkan culture had no printing press in its largest city, Zara, until 1796; and, in the eighteenth century, Venetian Dalmatia had only one public school.

One famous son of Dalmatia was Roger Joseph Boscovich, esteemed by

UMI

Tear off along this line if desired.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

World's Mightiest River Flows Through Ocean

"WHAT is the world's greatest river?" the teacher will ask.

And the pupil will cite the Amazon, or the Missouri-Mississippi. Correct, of course, in accordance with the accepted definition of a river, but did you ever reflect that the world's mightiest stream flows through the ocean—the Gulf Stream?

Until comparatively recent years little was known of this great current. The death, on December 30, 1919, of Rear Admiral John E. Pillsbury, U. S. N., president of the National Geographic Society, recalls that it was he who disclosed many of the deep sea secrets of this oceanic river by years of patient, ingenious study, which made him the world's foremost authority on the Gulf Stream.

"Grandest and Most Mighty Phenomenon"

In a communication to The National Geographic Society concerning some of his findings he wrote, in part:

"The Gulf Stream is probably the grandest and most mighty of any terrestrial phenomenon. Its waters are characterized by a deep indigo blue color of great clearness and high temperature. It can be penetrated by the eye to considerable depths, and generally its meeting with the less saline polar waters can be at once distinguished.

"It is difficult for the mind to grasp the immensity of this great ocean river. The Straits of Florida at its narrowest point is about 40 miles wide. A calculation of the average volume of water passing in one hour gives the enormous sum of 9.0 billion tons. If this one single hour's flow of water could be evaporated the remaining salts would require many times more than all the ships in the world to carry it.

"When one is on board a vessel, floating upon its waters, one is not as much impressed at the power and grandeur of this wonder of nature as he is when he stands before a towering mountain, an immense iceberg, or a fall of water such as Niagara, but when one remembers that the mighty torrent, speeding on hour by hour and day by day in a volume equal to all the largest rivers in the world combined, carrying its beneficent heat to temper the climate of continents, one begins to realize that of all the forces of the physical world none can equal this one river of the ocean.

"Ponce de Leon, while on his famous search for the Fountain of Youth, made the discovery of this great stream. After his failure to find, on the coast of upper Florida, the means of cheating death, he turned to the southward and skirted the shore for hundreds of miles, thus stemming the current.

Benjamin Franklin Suggested the Name

"The name of 'Gulf Stream' was first suggested by Benjamin Franklin because it issues from the Gulf of Mexico. While it is only a part of the grand scheme of ocean circulation, and the Gulf of Mexico is in reality only a stopping place, as it were, for its waters, this name is generally applied to the

UMI

scientists for his work setting forth a new atomic theory, but more popularly known because of the adoption of his plan for assuring the uprightness of the dome of St. Peter's at Rome, when a crack was discovered in it. He taught, experimented, wrote numerous treatises, went on a diplomatic mission to England when the neutrality of his native city, Ragusa, was questioned, and wrote verse as voluminously, but not so successfully, as he wrote scientific works. Upon one occasion he penned 5,000 Latin lines to set forth the fundamentals of astronomy, with copious footnotes, which scientists asserted were not helpful to them, and which the public apparently did not find readable.

Sentence Carried Out After Death of Accused

Marco Antonio de Dominis mingled theology and natural philosophy with serious consequences to himself. He set forth the first correct explanation of the rainbow. But his theological career was less fruitful. As Archbishop of Spalato he attacked his superiors in his writings, fled to England, returned to Rome and did penance with a rope about his neck in St. Peter's, and wrote a book refuting his heretical works. He was tried. He died before the trial was ended, but the trial went on. He was sentenced, two months after his death, to be dragged through the streets of Rome and to be burned publicly. His body was removed from its coffin and the sentence executed.

Dalmatia's beauties have been recounted by many travellers. Among the scores of islands off its coast are many rich in history, such as Brazza and Lessina, where Roman and Greek relics are to be found; Busi, with its ten caverns, the most beautiful of which is the Blue Grotto, entered by boat; and Lacroma, off Ragusa, where Richard Coeur de Lion is said to have found a haven during a storm on his return from the Crusades, and to have built a church there in compliance with a vow so to honor his place of refuge.

Tear off along this line if desired.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

Big Fish in Ocean Stream

BLAMING it on the Gulf Stream formerly was a favorite popular explanation of excessive heat or biting cold along our own Atlantic seaboard. The land effects of the kindly Gulf Stream's genial warmth are felt particularly in Europe. Yet America is a beneficiary of the Gulf Stream in numerous, often unsuspected ways. It played a part in the early settlement of the country, and, to note but one present day service, it is the deep sea game preserve of our southern shores.

How this comes about is described by John Oliver LaGorce in the following communication to The National Geographic Society.

"How many fishermen realize that there are found in the Atlantic Ocean offshore between Miami and Key West nearly 600 varieties of fish—an amazing total which constitutes one-fifth of the entire fauna of the American continent north of Panama?

Gulf Stream is "Prairie" for Deep Sea Denizens

"What the rolling prairie of the Far West was to the buffalo in the olden days, when it roamed in countless thousands to and fro in search of new pastures and salt, the ever-rolling Gulf Stream—that mighty, warm river which parallels the east coast of Florida—is to the fish legions of our semi-tropical seas.

"Even to sketch the possibilities of sport-fishing along the far-flung coral reef off Miami, the southernmost city of the Florida mainland and the fourth in size within the borders of the State, one must discount the old question: 'Are all fishermen intentionally disingenious, or do only liars fish?' for the facts concerning the variety, gameness, weight, and diversified color of the denizens of the deep, abounding in these waters, require a high rating as to the personal veracity and the courage to prove that ancient proverb about truth being stranger than fiction.

"The freshwater fisherman who, armed with light tackle, matches his wits against the quickness of the black bass, the brilliant generalship of the brook trout, or the fierce charge of the muskellunge, in his inland streams and lakes, may not consider it superior sport to 'wet his line' in salt water along the North Atlantic coast, for not many of the fish in cold seas are considered foemen worthy of his steel.

Some Finished Fighters To Be Found

"Yet a different story can be told of their warm sea brethren, and he needs only to hunt out, for example, the fearless tarpon, the dashing sailfish, or the powerful and valiant bonefish, not to mention a score of other finished fighters of the Gulf Stream, to realize that he is called upon to extend his every faculty and skill to bring such game alongside as trophies of his prowess.

"It would be interesting to have a motion-picture record of the thoughts

UMI

current now as it was given by Franklin—that is, the current coming from the Gulf of Mexico and spreading abroad over the North Atlantic.

"The theories as to the cause of ocean currents have been many.

"Franklin's theory, which has many advocates at the present day, was that the winds produce the current by the air moving over the surface of the water, and he illustrated this theory by the following: 'It is known that a large piece of water, 10 miles broad and generally only 3 feet deep, has by a strong wind had its water driven to one side and sustained so as to become 6 feet deep, while the windward side was laid dry.' As will be seen later, this is a well-taken example of the force of the wind in causing the Gulf Stream, but it does not quite show the whole of the truth.

"In the tropical regions there is a steady movement of the air from east to west known as the trade winds. South of a certain line situated near the equator these winds flow from a southwesterly direction, while north of the equator they come from a more northeasterly direction. The winds are not always strong, nor are they constant in direction, but they do not vary much, and then only for brief periods.

"Winds blowing over the surface of the water induce a current in the latter due to friction. At first it is only the merest skim that moves, but gradually the motion is communicated from layer to layer until at last, if the wind is long continued as in the trade wind region, the movement extends to lower depths, 300 or 400 feet, or perhaps more.

"These trade wind currents meet finally, the partial barrier of the islands forming the eastern part of the Caribbean, and a portion of the flow escapes through the passages between them. From here it continues its course across that sea until it reaches the obstruction of the Honduras and Yucatan coasts, from which it escapes by the easiest route, which is into the Gulf of Mexico.

Tons of Water Carried by the Wind

"It has been found, however, that the water entering the Caribbean by this means is not more than one-half of the amount which flows through the Straits of Florida from the Gulf of Mexico, and the other half is supplied from a source which does not come under the head of a measurable current. The other source is the wave caused by the wind. Every ripple carries a certain amount of water in the direction toward which it is flowing, irrespective of the current caused by its friction, and when the waves become large, tons of water are hurled from the crest into the trough every time the wave breaks.

"In a large area like the Caribbean, having a comparatively constant wind blowing over its whole surface, this action is practically a simultaneous movement of its surface waters to the westward and a continual escape of the water heaped up at the obstruction offered by the land into the Gulf of Mexico, through the Straits of Florida, and into the Atlantic.

"The Gulf Stream would be little felt on the coast of Europe did it not receive a great addition to its volume of heat when en route. This is by means of a gentle flow from the northeast trade wind current that passes outside the Caribbean Islands and the Bahamas. The surface temperature of this outside current is about the same in its passage along the West Islands as the Gulf Stream in the Straits of Florida, but it is less violent in its movements and there is less intermingling of its upper and lower waters, so that it arrives off Cape Hatteras with a much higher temperature than that of the more turbulent Gulf Stream."

Bulletin No. 2, January 19, 1920.

Tear off along this line if desired.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

The Real Gretna Green

GRETNA GREEN seems about to revert once more to a figure of speech, according to London dispatches which tell of the closing down of the vast cordite plants built there early in the World War.

To most Americans the words may never have meant much more than a nickname for any rendezvous of eloping couples, but there is a real Gretna Green. Twice has it been conspicuous among English towns, once when its chief industry was matrimony and again when, as a wag remarked, it started making a new kind of high explosive.

Now, like Hopewell, Virginia, it is about to sink into obscurity, with the end of its war contracts, which represented an investment of some $50,000,000 in our money, and the employment of more than 6,000 workers.

Gretna Green is a village in Scotland, tiny except for its munitions boom, less than a mile from the River Sark, which marks the English-Scotland boundary line in that vicinity, near the Solway Firth, and about nine miles northwest of Carlisle. Upon its proximity to the border line rests its first claim to fame, for the English marriage laws sent eloping couples to Scotland just as the divorce laws of some 47 of our States make Reno desirable for would-be divorcees.

Fleet Prison Once a "Gretna Green"

Before 1754 Fleet Prison was the figurative "Gretna Green" of England. Until that time the English law recognized marriages as valid so long as they were performed by clergymen of any denomination, but it imposed a fine upon clergymen who would perform the ceremony for couples who had not proclaimed their intentions either by banns or license.

Such fines had no terrors, of course, for clergymen imprisoned in Fleet for debt, and some of them undertook to marry couples who wished to avoid the expense of the customary public ceremony. Less scrupulous persons soon took advantage of this example, and tavern keepers fitted up places where they brought couples to be married by the "Fleet parsons," and in some cases young women of means were brought there forcibly by soldiers of fortune, and women of the under world lured men there for marriage as an easy means of compelling their husband-victims to pay their debts.

These abuses were checked by the famous Hardwicke act of 1754, which made unauthorized marriages voidable, and thereupon Gretna Green became the romance spot of the British Isles. All the Scotch law required was that two persons should declare their intention to be married in the presence of witnesses; and the British law then, as now, recognized marriages as legal so long as they conformed to the laws in the places they were consummated.

Haunt of "Marrying Parsons"

At Gretna Green, as in Fleet Prison, were persons who exercised cupidity at the expense of Cupid; and innkeepers, ferrymen, and tollhouse tenders ex-

UMI

which flash through the mind of even an experienced inland fisherman the first time he feels the tiger-like swoop of a five-foot barracuda, the yank of a hundred-pound amberjack, or the sullen surge of a big grouper on his line; for even when armed with the heaviest rod, a reel as big in comparison as the cylinder of an automobile engine, and a line which approaches a hawser in thickness, he is pretty sure to wish, at least subconsciously, that his equipment was twice as formidable and his arm thrice as strong.

"What, indeed, must his sensation be the first time when, looking overboard at his baited hook 30 feet below in the clear waters of the Gulf Stream, he sees, as plainly as if in a mirror, the approach and attack of a giant jewfish, which is just as likely to weigh 500 pounds as 50, for it sometimes grows as big as a pony along the Florida coral reef and is just about as strong."

Tear off along this line if desired.

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

Esthonians: Who Made Peace With the Bolsheviki

ESTHONIANS, or Esths, who are reported to have signed a peace agreement with the Bolsheviki were described by Dr. Edwin A. Grosvenor in "The Races of Europe" number of the National Geographic Magazine, as follows:

"The Esths are a Finno-Ugrian people, once savage and adventurous, terrifying the Baltic with their piracy, constantly attacking and attacked by the Danes and Swedes. Their final subjection by the Brothers of the Sword and their enforced acceptance of Christianity crushed their spirit and rendered them serfs to the German masters.

"The Esths outnumber the Germans in the Old Province of Esthonia twenty-nine to one; yet nine-tenths of all the land is held by Germans. In the former Province of Livonia the Esths constitute nearly half the population, while the Germans are less than one-fifteenth. There the land is divided into estates averaging over ten thousand acres in extent, none owned by an Esth or Lett, but almost invariably by a German. The Russian Government at times endeavored by agrarian laws to alleviate the condition of the peasant. Such efforts failed against the stolid resistance of the great proprietors.

"The Esths have clung devotedly to their national language, the sole inheritance from their past. They love poetry and song. Their physical characteristics are Finnic; their faces short, broad, beardless; their foreheads low, mouths small, arms long, legs short. Despite their extreme poverty, education is relatively advanced. All but 4 per cent are Lutheran Protestants.

"Since the sudden universal awakening in 1918, the Esths or the land owners have been insistent upon national recognition. But ownership in the land is their greatest need."

Bulletin No. 5, January 19, 1920.

UMI

ploited the couples who fled to Gretna Green. Any witnesses would have served, but the "professional witnesses" there, like the "marrying parsons" of some American towns, engaged "touts" to bring couples to them, and when the railroad from Glasgow to Carlisle started running the station platform at Gretna Green thronged with these obnoxious "commission men."

A pioneer of this unique industry was John Linton, formerly a valet to Sir John Gresham, described as a "man of fine presence and manners," and another, a Mr. Beattie, was a personable adventurer. But later traffickers were ne'er-do-wells and town drunkards.

According to popular legend, blacksmith shops were favorite meccas for eloping couples, but authority is lacking for the stories of smithies who would pause while shoeing horses to help legalize marriages. Many famous Englishmen were married at Gretna Green, among them Lord Eldon and Lord Brougham, both of whom later became Lord Chancellor, and Lord Erskine, while he was chancellor; Charles Manners Sutton, who afterward was Archbishop of Canterbury, and Lord Westmoreland and Miss Child, the latter a daughter of the man who founded Child's bank.

'Twas a Busy Year for Cupid

During the three decades when Gretna Green flourished, there were more than 7,000 marriages recorded there, nearly 800 of which were performed in 1855, the year before Scotland enacted a law which made a three weeks' residence a requisite to marriage.

Marriage by declaration still is legal in Scotland, and it is interesting to note that our own marriage laws deviate from the English common law in respect to marriage, and the provisions of most States follow more closely the Scotch law in this respect. As in Scotland, every State has made some provision for previous residence, obtaining a license, or registration, but there is the widest leeway permitted for the form of the actual ceremony.

Only seven years ago publicity was given the marriage of two young people at Cambridge, Mass., who wrote their own marriage service and had it repeated to them by a Justice of the Peace, whereupon that official pronounced them man and wife thus, "Since you wish to unite in marriage, and have notified each other of the same before me and these witnesses, I now, by virtue of the authority vested in me, pronounce you man and wife."

Tear off along this line if desired

GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Prepared Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

for

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Education

Who Are the Kurds?

WHO are the Kurds?

That question was on many lips when a delegation of this strange people appeared at the Paris Peace Conference to ask freedom for their historic land. It has been repeated within the last few weeks with the reports that Turkey's minister of war, Enver Pasha, under death sentence in his own country, had been crowned king of Kurdistan.

William H. Hall, in a communication to The National Geographic Society, has this to say of the Kurds:

"Kurdistan, a hill country north of the Tigris River, is the home of a brave, virile, largely illiterate series of tribes and clans known as the Kurds. They are descendants of the Cardushi, who gave Xenophon and his ten thousand so much difficulty on their march across these same hills on their way to the sea.

"Nominally they are Moslem in religion, but they have retained many elements of heathen worship. Some of their tribes are 'Yesdi' (Yezidis), or devil worshipers. They are home-loving, frugal and capable of enduring great hardships. They practice strict monogamy and their women occupy an equal place with their men in the family life.

"The Kurds have furnished at least one great man in history, for Saladin, the chivalrous leader of the Saracen hosts, the compeer of Richard Coeur de Lion, was from this people.

"Roughly speaking, Turkey is divided into five great provinces, or districts—and Kurdistan is one of these. The others are Anatolia, Armenia, Mesopotamia and Syria."

Bulletin No. 6, January 19, 1920.